



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**FELON CONVICTED FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARM AND AMMUNITION**

**AUGUSTA, GA:** Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that Sylvester Middleton, Jr., indicted by a federal grand jury in March 2005, was convicted of Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by a Felon by a federal court jury sitting in U.S. District Court in Augusta on November 8, 2005.

The case originated in Waynesboro, Georgia, at 3:25 a.m. on October 24, 2004, when a Waynesboro police officer heard four to six gunshots fired in a Huddle House parking lot. The officer then saw Middleton speed from the scene. A high-speed chase ensued and ended when Middleton crashed his car into a building. The defendant then attempted to elude police on foot, but was surrounded and surrendered to law enforcement. Shortly thereafter, a Waynesboro police investigator found a .38 caliber revolver containing six spent shell casings just 10 to 15 feet from where Middleton had been arrested. Middleton had been previously convicted of the following felonies: Possession of a Firearm on School Property, and Felony Possession of Marijuana. Middleton now faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for his conviction.

This case was federally prosecuted as part of this district's Project Ceasefire initiative, a program devoted to reducing gun violence by prosecuting individuals found in possession of firearms who cannot legally possess them, such as felons.

The investigation involved the cooperative efforts of the Waynesboro Police Department, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The government was represented by Assistant United States Attorney Nancy C. Greenwood.

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